

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 5-17 remain in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, and 4 have been canceled.

The features of dependent claims 2-4, now canceled, have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 11.

On page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner stated that the information disclosure statement filed on April 2, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not contain a concise explanation in English of the listed references. A supplemental IDS is submitted herewith listing and enclosing copies of the corresponding English-language equivalents of the listed references. Therefore, it is submitted that the IDS now complies with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

In the second item under Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-17 have been rejected as being anticipated by Knittel (U.S. 6,606,280) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the original claims of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a voice controller for a voice-controlled apparatus having a voice-controller receiver, having:

a sound detector detecting a sound signal containing a voice command, the sound detector having a voice recognizer recognizing the voice command, and the sound detector converting the voice command into a corresponding control signal for the voice-controlled apparatus;

a sound signal processor coupled to the sound detector and the receiver, the sound signal processor correcting the sound signal by eliminating the sound information from the sound signal to produce a corrected sound signal, and supplying the corrected sound signal to the voice recognizer for evaluation;

the sound detector, the receiver, the sound signal processor,
and the voice recognizer being disposed in a mobile part
provided separately from the voice-controlled apparatus;

the mobile part having a transmitter transmitting the
corresponding control signal to the voice-controller receiver;
and

the transmitter of the mobile part communicating with the
voice-controller receiver by a wireless communication channel.
(emphasis added)

Accordance to the present invention, there is provided a voice
controller including a sound source, a sound detector, a
receiver, and a sound signal processor. The sound source
includes a transmitter. The sound detector detects a sound
signal containing a voice command. The sound detector has a
voice recognizer recognizing the voice command. The sound
detector converts the voice command into a corresponding
control signal for a voice-controlled apparatus. A receiver
receives sound information from the transmitter associated
with the sound source. A sound signal processor coupled to
the sound detector and the receiver. The sound signal
processor corrects the sound signal by eliminating the sound
information from the sound signal to produce a corrected sound

signal, and supplies the corrected sound signal to the voice recognizer for evaluation. The sound detector, the receiver, the sound signal processor, and the voice recognizer are disposed in a mobile part provided **separately** from the voice-controlled apparatus.

The voice-controlled apparatus of claim 1 as amended herewith is different from the apparatus of Knittel as discussed below.

Knittel discloses a voice-controlled apparatus including a mobile part (remote unit 29) and a stationary part (base unit 31). The base unit is connected to the different devices to be controlled. The remote unit 29 of Knittel includes a microphone and an antenna 33. The antenna 33 serves for transmitting sound signals received by the microphone 45 to the base unit. The base unit includes a device for processing the sound signal received from the remote unit and the sound signals from the devices to be controlled. The base unit further includes speech recognition apparatus.

In contrast to voice-controlled apparatus according to present claimed invention, Knittel does not disclose a mobile part including a sound detector, a sound signal processor, and a voice recognition device, and communicating via a wireless communication channel with a receiver associated with the

devices to be voice-controlled.

Clearly, Knittel does not show "said sound detector, said receiver, said sound signal processor, and said voice recognizer being disposed in a mobile part provided separately from the voice-controlled apparatus; said mobile part having a transmitter transmitting the corresponding control signal to the voice-controller receiver; said transmitter of said mobile part communicating with the voice-controller receiver by a wireless communication channel" as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Independent claim 11 contains similar limitations.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1 or 11. Claims 1 and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 11..

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5-17 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a

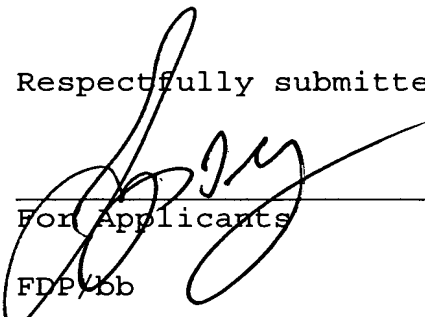
Appl. No. 09/767,800
Amdt. dated March 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2003

telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two (2) months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$420.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 and the fee in the amount of \$180.00 for the IDS are enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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For Applicants

FDP/bb

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